

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-45 (Canceled).

46 (New). A tool comprising

a first functional instrument including a first handle having a first marker, the first handle including a first finger gripping surface, and

a second functional instrument including a second handle having a second marker, the second handle including a second finger gripping surface,

the first functional instrument engaging the second functional instrument, forming a composite instrument,

the first handle mating with the second handle when the first functional instrument is engaged with the second functional instrument forming a composite handle, the first and second markers being located in a pre-determined visual alignment when the composite handle is formed, whereby the first gripping surface and the second gripping surface fit together to form a composite finger gripping surface that includes the first and second finger gripping surfaces.

47 (New). A tool as in claim 46

wherein the first functional instrument is a trocar instrument.

48 (New). A tool as in claim 46

wherein the second functional instrument is a cannula instrument.

49 (New). A tool as in claim 46

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to transmit longitudinal force to the composite instrument.

50 (New). A tool as in claim 46

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to transmit rotational force to the composite instrument.

51 (New). A tool as in claim 46

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to transmit both longitudinal and rotational forces to the composite instrument.

52 (New). A tool as in claim 46

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to receive a striking force.

53 (New). A tool as in claim 46

wherein the composite handle is constructed of material resisting deformation when a striking force is applied.

54 (New). A tool as in claim 46

wherein the second functional instrument is a cannula, and

wherein the first functional instrument is a trocar sized for passage through the cannula.

55 (New). A tool as in claim 46

wherein the trocar is longer than the cannula.

56 (New). A method of accessing bone which utilized the tool of claim 46.